

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, July 7, 2014

The Center of Clayton – Multipurpose Room C

Members present: Cynthia Garnholz, Michelle Harris, Darryl Higuchi, Jane Klamer, Jeanne Most, Becky Patel, Eric Schneider, Mark Stapleton and Melanie Tamsky

Absent: Ira Berkowitz and David LaGessee

Also Present: Patty DeForrest, Wayne Dunker, Tim Hohenstein, Toni Siering and Denise Ucinski.

Approval of Minutes:

One correction was made to the June meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Addresses from the Audience:

There were no addresses from the audience.

Shaw Park Ice Rink End of Season Report:

Mr. Tim Hohenstein presented the 2013-2014 Shaw Park Ice Rink End of Year Report. (See the attached presentation for specific details.) Ice Rink improvements included the addition of youth helmets, staff being required to wear helmets and new lace skates. The Shaw Park Ice Rink report also included the following information: slight decrease in usage during public skate and an increase in rental attendees, season highlights, revenue and expenditure comparisons, facility usage summary, season pass sales and an admissions summary. Mr. Hohenstein stated that the Living Social deal was offered, which increased daily admission revenue. Of those purchased only 36% of the deals were redeemed at the ice rink. Special events included: Skate with Frosty, Skater Appreciation Day, Mid-States Winter Classic, Frozen Cup Tournament and the St. Louis Blues hosted their holiday party at the rink.

Total revenue increased 10% from FY13 to FY14. Maintenance expenditures increased slightly compared to last season. The increase is a result of repairs to one of the compressors.

2014-2015 scheduled events: The Snowman Skate, Bonfire Fridays, Skater Appreciation Day and the Mid-States Winter Classic.

FY 2015 Budget: Fees & Charges Recommendations:

Ms. Siering reported that each year the Parks and Recreation Department conducts a fee comparison study to determine where fees are in comparison to other facilities in the surrounding area. The fees have to cover costs. Every two to three years the fees are increased at city facilities. Management is proposing an increase in daily fees, season passes as well as park rental rates. Clayton is the highest cost in comparison to other cities especially at the tennis center. After the Commission reviewed the fees and charges recommendation documents, Ms. Klamer made a motion to approve the fees and charges recommendations as presented. Ms. Most seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Capital Projects

Ms. DeForrest reviewed the Parks and Recreation capital projects that have been funded. The gutter grates and repairs to the expansion joints at Shaw Park Aquatic Center (SPAC) will be complete by the end of the season.

Ms. DeForrest explained how the projects are ranked in the Capital Improvement Plan. Ranking projects is the first step in the budget process. Master Plan projects are at the top of the list but can be moved if funding becomes available for a project with a lower ranking. The Oak Knoll playground project moved because the city received a grant. Scores are weighted to determine which projects are most important.

2015-2017 Capital Projects include: Taylor Park playground, DeMun Park playground, Oak Knoll Park retaining wall – possibly remove the wall and improve the grade, Shaw Park South Shelter enhancements, ice rink compressors (budget includes funds to re-build one compressor per year), Hanley House wall repair and SPAC pool painting. A list of projects funded through no tax increase bonds or CCF were also reviewed. There are no new funds for capital projects.

Director's Report:

Ms. DeForrest provided with Commission with the May 2012 Dog Park Report. The report includes information that was presented at the Dog Park Public Forum. There was a discussion at last month's meeting about increasing the amount of dogs allowed at the park and opening to non-residents. The initial agreement states that the city will wait one year before considering opening to non-residents. The dog park will be open for one year in September; therefore the Commission can discuss this topic again in the fall.

SPAC operations are going well. The first food truck Sunday event was a success; it was well attended. Vendors sold out of the food they prepared. The city receives 10% of sales. Three trucks did not show up at the event; there will be twelve trucks at the next food truck Sunday.

The city issued an RFP for facility use at the Oak Knoll Artist Guild. Seven different people/businesses are interested in using the facility. An open house was held last Tuesday with MSD and the neighborhood board. Residents provided good feedback, are supportive of water improvement and said they would like the entry to be from Oak Knoll Park not Ridgemoor. MSD will explore that option and come back to the city with an updated proposal.

Several changes are taking place with Clayton Farmers Market. The start time has moved to 5:00 pm and there will be chef demos. Clayton restaurants are working with the Farmer's Market to help promote the event.

Old Business / New Business:

There was no old or new business to report.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted By: Denise Ucinski